

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE
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Board of Aldermen
Police Dept. (vacant)
Parking Dept. (vacant)
Dept. of Public Works (vacant)
Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD)

Bob Trane,
Traffic and

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, June 22, 2005, Visiting Nurse Assn.

ATTENDEES Alan, Greg, Jim, Phil, Peter, Steve
 Guests: Terry Smith- Traffic and Parking Dept., Derek Prior

1. **Minutes** - Alan called the meeting to order at 6:49 pm. The May minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. **Guests** - Derek Prior has lived in the city for 2 years, commutes by bike to Lexington. He's from central Mass., went to UMass.

Terry Smith is the city's new traffic engineer in Traffic and Parking, and he walks to work. He's lived most of his life in the city. Previously he worked for the Mass Pike, and for MassHighway, where he used to commute by bike. He's also a former member of the original Boston Area Bicycle Coalition. His vision is creating a comprehensive network for pedestrians, bicycles, and motor vehicles in Somerville. Terry mentioned that the former Powder House Community School, when it is renovated as the City Hall Annex, will have approximately 400 employees assigned there, with parking for only 75.

He brought up two bike lanes items:

- Cutter Ave., between Elm St. and Highland Ave.- it is about to be repaved, and he suggested a bike lane for the street.
- Washington St., between the Cambridge city line/Inner Belt Rd. and McGrath Hwy.- lane stripes, including the bike lanes, will be repainted, but no repaving is scheduled. Steve will follow up on the proposed reconstruction of Washington St., as well as the proposed reconstruction of the Washington St. intersection under the McGrath Hwy. viaduct.

Phil asked about reducing the width of travel lanes in the city. Terry replied that the city is adamant on 12 foot travel lanes. Phil asked that the city do a study of Beacon St. after it is reconstructed, showing lane positioning by all vehicles. He asked if the city can change lane striping after the street is completed. Terry responded that the city can maintain the street as it wishes, but is not sure about repainting lines. Alan asked if bike lanes can be interrupted along a street, and then reappear. Terry said no, not according to MassHighway and Federal standards. A subcommittee of Steve, Ron, Greg, Phil, and Jim will meet to discuss flexible policy recommendations. Greg asked if the SBC recommendations for School St., sharrows, will be implemented. Phil asked that our recommendations be committed in writing to the city. Steve will write them up.

- 3. Post and ring inventory** - Not all members have turned in their surveys. Steve said that Federal grant money is available for bicycle racks. He will get details.
- 4. Community Path neighborhood meeting** - Steve announced that a meeting for residents of Brickbottom artists studios will soon be held. It is one of a series of smaller meetings about the Path. A large citywide meeting is expected to be held in September.
- 5. MassHighway Design Manual** - Jim is the Metropolitan Area Planning Council representative to the committee working on revisions to the MHD Design Manual. He said that minimum widths for bike lanes, travel lanes, and parking lanes will be included, and that he can pass along any SBC recommendations.
- 6. City Report** - Steve Winslow
Community Path - Alan asked if the MBTA wants the old freight rails. Steve replied that the T is looking into it. Steve also said that on the Maxpak site, the original proposal had access to the proposed development from Lowell St. The citizen's committee has now recommended that Lowell St. only be used for access to a proposed parking garage on the site, and not to the entire development. There are some public safety access questions still to be addressed. Greg was concerned about the potential for a forbidding high wall bordering the Path extension as it would run next to this garage. Alan will pass this along to Asher Miller, who has been attending the citizen committee meetings.
- 7. Other issues** - A farewell party for Tuck O'Brien, who is leaving the city's Community Development department for law school, will be held at Toast in Union Sq. on July 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting is Tuesday, July 19, at the Visiting Nurse Assn. Assisted Living Center in Lowell St., 3rd. floor.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Palmer, Secretary